

Mohave County Miner.

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The Limitation of Fortunes in America.

The impressions of a great people often spring from their instincts, and the instinct of Americans tells them that the next election will probably be the commencement of a "parting of the ways." The intense individualism of America, which is fostered alike by her freedom and her constitution, shows signs of giving way at one particular point. The people at large, unless we mistake the symptoms, have begun to dread the growth of a new baronage, which threatens the cardinal principles upon which the republic was built. As a consequence, partly of enormous prosperity, due to the unceasing industry of 70,000,000 of men with whom industry is at once a duty and a pride, and partly of protection, individuals and corporations are becoming so wealthy that they threaten the very root conditions of the state. The Union is built upon the equal freedom of its whole people to secure those conditions of happiness in which, as Americans believe, the old World is deficient. An American, in his own judgment, should enjoy safety from oppression, sufficient material plenty in his household, and a free career—that is, a career not impeded by any artificial social conditions. The freedom from oppression, as oppression is understood in Europe, is still secured, the plenty is still enjoyed by all except the residuum of the great cities, but the career is now seen to be impeded by aggregations of wealth in the hands of individuals and of corporations such as the founders of the republic would have considered incredible. The new baronage of multi-millionaires are practically able to deny equality of opportunity to all who oppose them, and often demand and secure illegal advantages of the most galling kind. If Crassus dreads rivalry he can compel the mere citizen to quit business, through rebates he can monopolize the use of the railroads, through "corners"—that is, monopolies—he can raise the price of everything except food almost at discretion, and lately, as we see in the Chicago scandals, he has threatened for the sake of exaggerated profits even the wholesomeness of necessary food. The people, therefore, who were at first inclined to be proud of their multi-millionaires, as of something that Europe could not rival, are growing angry with the kind of anger which is reckless of consequences and which in the older countries of the world produces bread riots. As yet the first objects of popular antipathy are the great corporations, or, as they call them in America, trusts or syndicates, which, though they usually enrich very few, avert by their character of companies the odium which would accrue to individuals. So strong has this feeling grown that the prospective candidates of the two historic parties have both declared war upon the combinations. Mr. Roosevelt, the republican, or, as the early founders would have called him, the federalist, insists that there must be national control of all the trusts trading in more than one state; while Mr. Bryan, the democrat, proclaims publicly his wish that all trusts be "extirpated." In other words, men wielding huge aggregations of wealth are declared to be in a sense public enemies, who must be prevented by anticipatory laws from using their terrible weapons to the injury of the community, for it is clear, without argument, that you cannot restrain the action of the over-wealthy syndicate without restraining also the action of the over-wealthy individual. To the small trader who hopes to "get up"—that is, who hopes for a free career—it is no great matter whether the obstacle to his hopes is called Mr. Rockefeller or the Standard Oil trust.

If at the next election an immense majority of the people proclaim by their votes that this is their governing impulse the change to be effected in the economic legislation of the state must ultimately be very great. In the first place, protection must go, or must at all events be shorn of its present gigantic strength. Protection is the

great bulwark of the trusts, or let us say the glacis which must be crossed before the citadel can be successfully attacked. Mr. Bryan already perceives this clearly, and makes in public the odd suggestion that whenever a particular item in the tariff is plainly injuring the community the president shall have power to suspend or repeal it—a gigantic increase to the power of the national executive, at which, we think, even Hamilton would have winced—while Mr. Roosevelt, though he does not advocate such a departure from precedent, does admit that the tariff must be modified—by law, of course—wherever it is clearly opposed to the interest of the community. In the second place it will be necessary to subject those who devise injurious "combinations" to penal legislation, probably to be enforced by commissions instead of juries, and thus make the formation of monopolies as dangerous as the "regrating" of bread once was in Europe. And in the third place, new laws will be necessary to promote distribution as statutes of secular mortmain. In Europe such laws are now nearly universal in restriction of the church's "individualism," because, as a church cannot die and does not waste, it would otherwise gradually concentrate the whole property of the country in clerical hands. And with the small American families nothing but a new system of distribution at death can prevent gigantic accumulations. In the third generation a multi-millionaire might hold several hundred millions sterling and be master of all means of communication in three or four states, even if not of many of the lesser legislatures. What the new scheme of distribution is to be we cannot pretend to foresee, but that testators disposing of vast sums will be restrained from bequeathing more than a fixed amount to individual legatees we think exceedingly probable. Opinion in America already favors equal division among the children at death, which may be called the most natural system of devotion, and if that restriction should prove insufficient a wider area of inheriting relatives may be included, or even the cost of national education may be partially provided out of those surplus fortunes which, in a certain condition of opinion, would be considered inexpedient or perhaps oppressive.—London Spectator.

Smelters Great Work in Developing the Country.

Although scarcely in operation six months, the blowing in of the Humboldt smelter plant has caused a revival to the mining industry of the northern part of the territory which is little short of phenomenal, and when it becomes known that a new blast furnace, which was blown in Monday, is in operation, a still further impetus to the industry will be the result, especially in those districts where coarse low grade bodies of silicious ores abound, within easy reach of a railroad, and which can be mined at a reasonably low expense.

Since active operations were inaugurated at the plant, and within the past few months, work has been resumed on a number of mines containing large bodies of medium grade ores which have been idle, in many cases, for a number of years, on account of no reduction plant within easy reach offering a market.

The Iron King mine, within one mile of the plant, is now giving employment to a large number of men, and producing over 80 tons of ore a day, when before the building of the plant its profitable operation was out of the question on account of its great distance from market.

The output of the McCabe, Gladstone, Lincoln, and other properties, has been almost doubled since the plant opened a home market for the ores of the Big Bug district, which in the country tributary to the line of the Arizona & California railroad, it is now said that there are ten different companies making regular shipments to the smelter concern.

Consignments of ores continue to pour in from the Quartzite, Chloride,

and other Mohave county districts, as well as from the Copper Basin districts, only fourteen miles south of this city, where less than one year ago hardly a miner or prospector could be found at work. From the country tributary to the Phoenix & Eastern railroad over two car loads of ore a day now arrive at the plant, where hardly a pound of ore was produced a year ago. A number of companies in Pinal county, along the line of this road, are developing properties with wonderful energy, and within the next few months it is expected that the output of that region will be more than doubled. The principal companies engaged in active operations there are the Big Lead Mining company, Calumet Mining company, Riverside Mining company, owning the Bryan group; Ray Mining company, which is continuing its exploration with diamond drills, and the Arizona Giant company, while the Arizona-Pacific Mining company is repairing its shaft preparatory to resuming operations on its property on an extensive scale.—Prescott Journal-Miner.

Nipissing.

Capt. John R. De Lamar and Ambrose Monell, president of the International Nickel company, both of whom are directors in the Nipissing Mines company, are at the latter property in Cobalt for the purpose of opening up the new bonanza vein No. 49, says the Toronto World.

This is the richest and most remarkable silver vein ever discovered. It has been stripped for over 150 feet and for 70 feet of this distance the vein has widened to a surface showing of from 28 to 64 inches. Assays of this ore have shown an average value of over fifty per cent silver and a nugget weighing a little over two tons, which has just been taken out contains 19,000 worth of silver. This vein is acknowledged by mining engineers who have seen it to be the most wonderful mineral discovery of the century. Ever since its discovery crowds have flocked to the Nipissing camp to inspect this mining marvel, and it has been necessary to station armed guards at 49 vein night and day.

A careful estimate of this "giant" silver vein, made by mining men and geologists together, shows the existence of ore body containing fully 4,000,000 in silver values, if it goes only to a depth of 50 feet below the surface and continues in width and values in keeping with its present showing. The depth of 50 feet only is mentioned solely because of the fact that adjacent ledges have been worked on this property to a depth of 50 to 60 feet, and show fully as good values at the bottom as were indicated when the veins were first stripped. According to the careful estimation of geologists of note there is every likelihood that the silver bearing veins throughout the entire Cobalt district will reach a depth of at least 500 and probably 1,000 feet, before there is any material change in values.

The Nipissing company is carrying forward the work of mining on a larger scale than ever before. The marvelous developments of the past two months on the property have shown beyond any question that years will be spent in the complete development of their enormous acreage. In consequence a large central compressor plant is under order, and will be very shortly installed. New and large drill equipment is on the property, and a central shaft is being put down on ledge 49, which it is purposed to continue to a depth of at least 500 feet. The shaft is being sunk at ledge 26, the remarkable values from which have almost been overlooked since the mammoth 49 ledge was discovered, is already down to a depth considerably below the frost line, and work can be continued here without interruption throughout the winter. At the 70 foot level of this latter shaft drifts will be run into the three veins which converge near this point. The output of silver from 26, which has been over 300,000 to date, will be more than doubled before the close of the coming winter. Superintendent Linney was

criticized in certain quarters because of his very firm belief that the installation of an hydraulic plant would result in much more rapid and economic working in the way of stripping and uncovering new veins. This plant has now been in operation for nearly two months and has demonstrated beyond any question its practical economy under the peculiar conditions existing at the Nipissing property, fully half a dozen veins having been brought to light by the hydraulic giants along the lake shore. The work of opening these veins has already begun. Although there are now over 200 men employed on the property, the force is not yet sufficient to carry forward the work as rapidly as conditions warrant, and new men are still being added to the force. While the heavy frosts and the rapid approach of winter act as deterrents to the work of prospecting, deforesting and road building, there has been ample preparation for continuing and increasing activities during the winter months. It is wholly probable that the output for the winter will average over 250,000 a month, and may exceed this figure. Of the 50 veins which have thus far been uncovered on this property, fully half of them have been developed to depths ranging from 25 to 65 feet. With only one exception the veins have continued to show steady widths and values as they went down.

There is no longer doubt, even in the minds of the most skeptical, that Cobalt is one of the wonder camps of the continent, and that it will continue as an increasing prominent factor in silver mining for many years to come.

Railroad and Smelter.

The Blaine can state that it has been definitely decided by the Lake Superior & Arizona Copper company to construct a railroad from Florence to Superior and to erect on the river near the Florence depot, a 250 ton smelting plant. Gen. Manager Sieboth will so plan the initial plant that its capacity can be doubled by a simple addition of furnaces, and as the company will treat custom ores with its own ores, it will not be long till a doubling of the furnace capacity will be necessary, as Florence is in the center of the greatest mining field in the United States. The Superior mine alone, is capable with its present development, of keeping a 250 ton plant busy, and two years hence a 500 ton plant will hardly meet its requirements.

Surrounding Superior and all along the proposed railroad down to within twelve miles of Florence are numerous mines, capable of large production, and the moment the railroad shall have been completed and the reduc-

tion plant shall have been placed in operation, ore shipments will commence from all these mines and the same will be true of the mines along the Gila river from Florence to Christmas, including the Butte, Kelvin, Riverside, Ray, Mineral Creek, Troy, Ripsey, Banner, Bunker Hill and Mammoth districts. The most distant of these districts is only 50 miles from the proposed smelter site at Florence, and are reached by the Phoenix & Eastern railroad. We confidently predict that in less than two years from the date of the "blowing in" of the Lake Superior and Arizona smelting plant at this place, Gen. Manager Sieboth will find it necessary to increase the capacity of the plant to 1000 tons per day in order to handle all the custom ore sent in. The people employed at the smelter and the mines it will cause to be operated, will furnish a market for all the produce, hay, grain, etc., that can be raised in this valley and will make the agricultural population prosperous.—Florence Blade.

Shannon shares have met a most phenomenal advance during the past few weeks, the price now quoted being 15.50 to 15.75. This rapid advance is not easily explained, as it is out of proportion to the advance of other stocks on the market. The most reasonable solution is that investors in coppers are just beginning to realize what a really good thing Shannon is. Last month the company outputted 1,400,000 pounds of copper, which was a record breaker, but even that will be increased this month quite materially. The output for the year will approximate 18,000,000, which is about one-third more than it produced last year. But the management is not satisfied even with this remarkable showing, for orders have been made for betterment of the plant to the extent of nearly 100,000, which improvements will be completed within a few months, doubling its present capacity, and place it well up to the front with the big producers of the territory. Aside from treating its own ore the Shannon is building up a large custom smelting business, which is a great benefit to the district. At the present time the company is treating more than 100 tons of ore per day that comes from mines other than its own, and this business is yet in its infancy. The management has a well earned reputation with the public for square dealing and prompt settlements. With such a showing, and with 20 cent copper, the advance in Shannon shares is a natural sequence. The probabilities are that the stock will be selling at 25 within a few months.—Clifton Era.

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